

Southern Sudan, 111–117 mm. (four males). Two Kenya Colony males are 115–121 mm., Abyssinia 117 mm. (one male), and Northern Nigeria 112–116 mm. (four males); and at first sight it would appear that Kenya Colony males might be larger than those from northern Portuguese East Africa, Nyasaland and southern Tanganyika Territory, but Nyasaland males (two) measure 111–117 mm., and southern Tanganyika Territory males (four) measure 113–117 mm., and thus show a complete overlap of wing measurements in all areas. We are therefore of opinion that *Ptyonoprogne rufigula fusciventris* Vincent, should become a synonym of *Ptyonoprogne fuligula rufigula* (Fischer & Reichenow).

On the Races of *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii* Sykes in Ceylon.

Mr. HUGH WHISTLER sent the following note on the races of Horsfield's Scimitar-Babbler in Ceylon :—

Blyth (J. A. S. B. vol. xvi. 1847, p. 451) separated the Scimitar-Babbler of Ceylon from the Indian bird, *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii* Sykes (Western Ghats) under the name of *Pomatorhinus melanurus*, but it was reserved for Holdsworth (P. Z. S. 1872, p. 448) to point out that two birds of very different colouring—one ferruginous and the other olive—were included under the latter name. This fact was again commented on by Wardlaw-Ramsay (Ibis, 1878, p. 132), by Legge ('Birds of Ceylon,' p. 502), and Harington (J. B. N. H. S. vol. xxiii. p. 334). Legge considered the two types sufficiently different to be worth figuring in his great book, and he also pointed out that the bright ferruginous bird belonged to the Low Country Wet Zone of South-west Ceylon, whilst the olive bird inhabited the Low Country Dry Zone and the Hill Zone. These facts have recently been confirmed by the fine collection of birds made in the Survey carried out under the auspices of the British and the Colombo Museums. The case is, of course, parallel to those of *Rhopocichla atriceps* and *Pellorneum fuscapillum*, which have similarly distributed races.

In naming *Pomatorhinus melanurus* Blyth gave no other locality than Ceylon, but his specimens came from Dr. Templeton, who received them from Layard. This fact, combined with the original description, which evidently refers to the ferruginous bird, leads me to restrict the type-locality to Urugaha (south of Kalutara), and therefore, the name to the ferruginous bird. For the olivaceous bird I propose the name

***Pomatorhinus horsfieldii holdsworthi*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Similar to *P. h. melanurus*, but the upper parts, flanks and wings (that is, those parts which are ferruginous in *melanurus*) olivaceous brown, faintly tinged with rusty on the sides of the hind neck and on the rump.

Type.—Survey no. 317, male, December 1, 1936. Ohiya, 5800 feet, Central Hill Zone, Ceylon. Bill 27.5, wing 90.5, tail 87, tarsus 32 mm.

NOTICE.

The next meeting of the Club will be held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Friday (not Saturday, as usual), April 24, 1942, at 2 o'clock, after a luncheon at 1 o'clock.

It is proposed to hold the combined meeting of the Club with the British Ornithologists' Union, which took place in April last year, on Saturday, June 6, 1942. Further details of this will be announced later.

21 MAR 1942

PURCHASED

